

Baku



Baku is the capital, largest city, and largest port of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus region. It is located on the southern shore of the Absheron Peninsula, that projects into the Caspian Sea.

The city consists of two principal parts: the downtown and the old Inner City. Baku's urban population at the beginning of 2009 was estimated at just over two million people. Among these are the townships on islands in the Baku Bay and the town of Oil Rocks built on stilts in the Caspian Sea, 60 km (37 mi) away from Baku. The Inner City of Baku along with the Shirvanshah Palace and Maiden Tower were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000. The city is the scientific, cultural and industrial center of Azerbaijan.

Sheki



Sheki is situated in northern Azerbaijan on the southern part of the Greater Caucasus mountain range, 325 km (200 miles) from Baku. The population of Sheki is 63,000. Sheki is surrounded by snowy peaks of the Greater Caucasus, in some places reaching 3000–3600 m. Sheki has one of the greatest density of cultural resources and monuments that include 2700 years of Azerbaijani history. The city boasts a lot of houses with red roofs. In pop culture, probably the most famous feature of Shakinians are their nice sense of humor and comic tales.

Fascinating Caucasus

Countries: Georgia Azerbaijan

Period from: April to October

Duration: 12 days, 11 nights

Tour category: Cultural

Azerbaijan and Georgia - the Caucasian land of hospitality. Visit the capitals of these three countries is the perfect introduction to their great culture, rich spirit and diversity. We make the way from Baku, Azerbaijan to Tbilisi, Georgia, through the rolling hills and lush valleys, beautiful and scenic Caucasus Mountains and lakes, ancient architectural monuments and fascinating villages.

Day 1- Excursion across Baku

Start exploring Azerbaijan with a city tour of Baku, which is one of the oldest and biggest cities in the East for antiquity, territory and population. We'll visit the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah Palace and Maiden Tower, UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Inner City (Icheri Sheher) has preserved much of its 12th century defensive walls. The 12th century Maiden Tower, built over earlier structures dating from the 7th to 6th centuries BC, and the 15th century Shirvanshah' Palace, one of the pearls of Azerbaijan's architecture. Juma Mosque and the Carpet Museum. We will have a walk in Naberezhny Park and along Baku Boulevard, the second largest one in Europe. On Boulevard we'll get a boat and make trip on it along Baku Bay. We'll be introduced with the interesting facts and legends of the largest lake in the world better known as Caspian Sea. Overnight in Baku.

Day 2: Baku / Absheron Peninsula

Leaving for a tour in Absheron Peninsula. Ateshgah, the Fire Worshippers' Temple is located in the village of Surakhany. It was built on the land where natural gas burned eternally and worshipped by Zoroastrian believers who travelled from the province of Multan in India to visit this sacred place. These ancient fires are believed to have given Azerbaijan its name, which is thought by some researchers to mean the "Land of Fires". Visit also well preserved ancient castles of Absheron Peninsula dated 12th-13th c.c. There are several fine medieval castles - one each at Amirajan and Nardaran and two at Mardakan - apparently built for defense by the Shirvan Shahs in the 14th century. Overnight in Baku.

Day 3: Baku / Sheki (360 KM)

Sheki is one of the most famous and ancient places of Azerbaijan. Situated 700 m (2297 ft.) above sea level like an amphitheatre surrounded by the mountains and forests of oak trees, this ancient city was long famed as a silk centre and an important stop on the Great Silk Route. There is an assumption that the name of the town goes back to the ethnonym of the Saks, who reached the territory of Azerbaijan in the 7th century BC. We'll start our Sheki tour from visiting the 18th century Khan's summer palace (entrance fee: 4 USD) with magnificent frescos and exquisite stained glass work. Sheki History museum is famous with artifacts from several periods. Also visit the Albanian church located in Kish village. Legend says that the church was built in 78 AD, but the researchers place it a few centuries

Kazbegi (now called Stepantsminda), is a small town in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region of north-eastern Georgia. Historically and ethnographically, the town is part of the Khevi province. It is the center of the Kazbegi Municipality. The town is dominated by large mountains on all sides. The most notable mountain of the region, Mount Kazbek, lies immediately to the west of town.

Day 12: Transfer to Airport. End of tour

For more details:

Baku, Azerbaijan, AZ 1065

Tel: (+99412) 4379090, Mob: (+99450/55/70) 2631234

Email: info@exploreazerbaijan.az

www.exploreazerbaijan.az

Price:

Number of tourists	Price per person in USD Azerbaijan Part	Price per person in USD Georgian Part	Total price in USD
2	883	1828	2711
4	563	1210	1773
6	433	1023	1456
8	404	915	1319
10	358	848	1206
15	306	814	1120
20	272	752	1024
Single supplement add	95	289	384

Azerbaijan Part included:

- Accommodation by program
- Transportation service
- English speaking guide
- Entry fee
- One bottle water per person per day
- BB meals in hotels

Georgia part included:

- Transportation as per program
- English speaking guide
- 3 overnights in Tbilisi
- 1 overnight in Signaghi
- 1 overnight in Gudauri
- 1 overnight in Akhaltsikhe
- 1 overnight in Kutaisi
- 1 overnight in Batumi
- BB meals in hotels
- 1 dinner in Gudauri
- Farewell dinner in Tbilisi with folk show
- One bottle of mineral water per person per day

Price excluded:

- Lunch and dinner
- Museum entrance fees
- Travel insurance

Itinerary & Map

Azerbaijan



Georgia



Lagodekhi - Sheki- Kish – Lahij - Ismayilly – Shamakhy - Baku

DAYS	SITES	DISTANCE, KM/ML	TIME IN TRAFFIC +/-
Day 1	Baku	0 / 0	---
Day 2	Baku City tour and Absheron Peninsula	60 / 38	40 min
Day 3	Baku – Sheki	360 / 225	5 hours
Day 4	Sheki – Lagodekhi Gremi/ Telavi/ Sighnaghi	370 / 69	5 hours
Day 5	Sighnaghi / David Gareji / Tbilisi	300 km.	7 hours
Day 6	Tbilisi tour	100 km.	30 min.
Day 7	Tbilisi – Kazbegi – Gudauri(220 km)	220 km.	6 hours
Day 8	Gudauri – Uplistsikhe – Borjomi – Akhaltsikhe	300 km.	6 hours.
Day 9	Akhaltzikhe – Vardzia – Kutaisi	320 km.	6,5 hours
Day 10	Kutaisi – Batumi	180 km	3 hours
Day 11	Batumi – Mtskheta – Tbilisi	380 km	7 hours
Day 12	Tbilisi – Tbilisi Airport	25 km	30 min.

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Visa

Azerbaijan:

Visa upon arrival in International Airports of Azerbaijan can be obtained only by Turkish and Israel citizens. Citizens of other countries have to obtain visa before arrival through consulates of Azerbaijan around the world.

To obtain tourist visa to Azerbaijan you will need an official Letter of Invitation (LOI) or Tourist Voucher from our travel agency. Procedures and prices are different and depend of citizenship and consulate location. Please contact with our managers at list 6 weeks before to arrange our visa to Azerbaijan.

Georgia:

Foreign nationals, who permanently reside in the USA, the Republic of Lithuania, Swiss Confederation, Federative Republic of Germany, Republic of Korea, Czech Republic, Republic of Hungary, Republic of Poland, Republic of Slovenia, Kingdom of Denmark, Island, Kingdom of Norway, Kingdom of Sweden, Kingdom of Spain, Republic of Bulgaria, Slovak Republic, Republic of Romania, Republic of Estonia, Republic of Latvia and possess a document certifying permanent residence in one of these countries, do not need visa to enter and stay on the territory of Georgia up to 360 days.

For more information please, check here: http://www.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=96

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Hotels

Azerbaijan:

Tour price was calculated with 3 and 4 star hotels in Baku and regions. Hotel category can be upgraded to 5* by tourists request. Accommodations in following hotels are suggested:

Baku: Noah's Ark 3*, Amber Hotel 4*

Ismayilli: Yeddi Gozel 4*, Karvansara 3*

Sheki: Karvansara 3*

Georgia:

Sighnaghi: Solomoni 3*, Pirosmani 3*, Kabadoni 4*

Tbilisi: GTM Kapan 3*, Astoria Palace 3*, Penthouse 3*, Prima Vera 4*

Gudauri: Free Rider 3*, Carpe Diem 4*

Akhaltsikhe: Lomsia 4*

Kutaisi: Argo Palace 3*, Max comfort 3*, Tskaltubo Spa resort 4*

Batumi: Era Palace 4*

Breakfast is included to the price at all hotels. Laundry service is available for the extra price. Internet in regions is very limited and not available at some hotels. Check in time 14:00, check out 12:00. Late checkout is available by additional request.

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Practical Information

Foreign Exchange

Up-to-date information on exchange rates can be obtained here: <http://currency.boom.ge/?lng=en>

Local Currency: Manat in Azerbaijan, Lari in Georgia

Recommended Currency for Exchange: USD or EURO.






Where to Exchange: Most major towns - your guide will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability: Only in major towns.






Credit Card Acceptance: Only in major towns.

Travelers Cheques: Travelers cheques are difficult to change.

Climate in Azerbaijan

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
 Avg. Temperature	6	5	8	15	18	30	32	30	20	17	12	8
 Avg. Max Temperature	10	8	12	19	22	30	35	37	25	21	16	12
 Avg. Min Temperature	3	2	4	10	13	25	30	33	16	13	8	6
 Avg. Rain Days	4	5	3	3	4	3	5	4	3	4	2	5
 Avg. Snow Days	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Climate in Georgia

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
 Avg. Temperature	6	5	8	15	18	21	24	24	20	17	12	8
 Avg. Max Temperature	10	8	12	19	22	26	28	29	25	21	16	12
 Avg. Min Temperature	3	2	4	10	13	16	20	20	16	13	8	6
 Avg. Rain Days	4	5	3	3	4	3	5	4	3	4	2	5
 Avg. Snow Days	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Vaccinations & Protection

Nothing compulsory

Electric Supply & Plugs

For comprehensive information regarding voltages and plug types in use in Azerbaijan see the link <http://www.kropla.com/electric2.htm>

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all our customers. You should ensure that your policy covers you for medical expenses and repatriation.

Packing for your trip

Unfortunately it does occasionally happen that luggage does not always reach its destination on the same flight as its owner, or possibly it may be damaged in transit. If you are unlucky enough for this to occur, it is important that you file a PIR (Property Irregularity Report) with the airline before leaving the airport. This is essential when you come to make a claim either against the airline or from your travel insurance company

Luggage

Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself. One main piece of baggage and daypack. Total allowance: 20 kg.

Clothing

Pack essentially for 'Hot Conditions'. Weather is changeable in the north and mountains; it can be cool especially at night, bring a warmer jacket. Raingear is essential at all times. In remote parts of Caucasus you should avoid shorts and vest tops; long trousers or skirts are ideal. A headscarf is essential for visiting churches and mosques.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes for visiting sites and hilly towns; sandals; lightweight walking/trail boots for optional day walks.

Equipment

Swimsuit, Sunhat, Sun Cream and Sunglasses.

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Comments

While it is our intention to follow the itinerary printed, tours within Azerbaijan may be subject to change a bit. The infrastructure for tourism is still developing in this region.

You'll need some extra money to cover meals not included in the tour price, other sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry. Approximately USD 30 per day per person.

Local food is not expensive and you can choose local national restaurants and small cafes to eat, approximate menu price for one person is from USD 10.

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